

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**PIANO VIRTUOSO EMANUEL AX RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 3:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, October 9, 2003 – Renowned for his poetic temperament and the exceptional range of his performance activities, acclaimed pianist **Emanuel Ax** returns to Cal Performances **Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m.** “A rare and marvelous artist,” extols *The New York Times*, Ax’s Cal Performances program includes **Claude Debussy’s** Images for Piano Set I and Set II; **Jean-Philippe Rameau’s** Pieces de Clavecin; **Maurice Ravel’s** Valse Nobles et sentimentales; and Four Scherzi by **Frederic Chopin**.

Emanuel Ax was born in Lvov, Poland, and moved with his family to Winnipeg, Canada at a young age. He attended the pre-college division at Juilliard, and studied French at Columbia University. He first entered the public spotlight in 1974 at age 25, when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he captured the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists, and he won the coveted Avery Fisher Prize in 1979. Since that time, he has become one of the most prominent pianists in the world. Each season his distinguished career includes appearances with major symphony orchestras worldwide, recitals in the most celebrated concert halls, and a variety of chamber music collaborations.

An active commissioner and performer of new music, Ax gave the world premiere of John Adams’ *Century Rolls* with the Cleveland Orchestra in 1997, the European premiere with the Concertgebouw Orchestra in 1998, and the New York premiere with the Cleveland Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in 2000. In recent years Ax has turned his attention toward the music of 20th-century composers, performing works by such diverse figures as Sir Michael Tippett, Hans Werner Henze, Paul Hindemith, Ezra Laderman, Peter Lieberson, Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, André Previn and Aaron Copland.

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Devoted to chamber music literature, Emanuel Ax regularly works with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Serkin and Jaime Laredo, and he was a frequent collaborator with the late Isaac Stern. He has made a series of acclaimed recordings with Ma, and as a duo they have won three Grammy awards for the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. The pair has also teamed with Richard Stoltzman for a Grammy award-winning album of clarinet trios and with Pamela Frank, Rebecca Young and Edgar Meyer for the Schubert "Trout" Quintet. The Ax-Stern-Laredo-Ma Quartet has recorded the piano quartets of Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorák, Fauré, Mozart and Schumann.

Emanuel Ax has been an exclusive Sony Classical recording artist since 1987, making his debut on that label with a collection of Chopin scherzos and mazurkas. His recent releases include the third in a series of Haydn Piano Sonatas, a two-piano program (with Yefim Bronfman) of works by Rachmaninoff; period-instrument performances of Chopin's complete works for piano and orchestra (on two discs); and the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 with Bernard Haitink and the Boston Symphony. Other notable recordings are a Grammy-award winning album of Haydn Piano Sonatas, the two Liszt concertos paired with the Schoenberg Concerto, three solo Brahms albums, an album of tangos by Astor Piazzolla and a recording of John Adams' *Century Rolls* with the Cleveland Orchestra for Nonesuch.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Emanuel Ax** on **Sunday, November 9** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$32.00**, **\$42.00** and **\$56.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

Recital

Emanuel Ax, piano

Program:

Debussy/Images for Piano Set I and Images for Piano Set II

Rameau/Pieces de Clavecin

Ravel/Valse Nobles et sentimentales

Chopin/Four Scherzi

Tickets: \$32.00, \$42.00 and \$56.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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